

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205568
ORIGIN SS-25

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EUR/CE:RBARKLEY
EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS
L/EUR:DGANTZ
PM/ISP:TEICHER
S/S-O:JETHYDEN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205568

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, PGOV, BQG, CG, GW, UR

SUBJECT:SOVIET CONCERN RE OTRAG ROCKET TESTING FACILITY

REF: BONN 13914

1. BEFORE RECEIPT REFTEL BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBOFFS MADE
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SEPARATE CALLS IN DEPT ON AUGUST 25 TO DISCUSS SOVIET
DEMARCHE ON OTRAG ROCKET TESTING FACILITY WHICH THEIR
GOVERNMENTS HAD ALSO RECEIVED.

2. DEPT OFFICERS TOLD BRITISH AND FRENCH THAT WE DID NOT
KNOW TO WHAT FOUR POWER AGREEMENT THE SOVIETS WERE
REFERRING IN THEIR DEMARCHE, AND COULD ONLY SPECULATE THEY

MIGHT MEAN THE POTSDAM AGREEMENT. BRITISH AND FRENCH ARE EQUALLY PUZZLED. WE TOOK LINE WITH BOTH THAT CONSULTATION AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH THE FRG WAS IMPORTANT TO DECIDE ON NEXT STEPS. WE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE BONN GROUP WAS THE PROPER FORUM ON THEORY THE FRG MIGHT VIEW SUCH A SUGGESTION FROM THE ALLIES AS AN INCLINATION TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOVIET VIEW THAT FOUR POWER MATTERS ARE INVOLVED.

3. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT MEYER-LANDRUT'S SUGGESTION THAT FOUR POWER DISCUSSION OF SOVIET ALLEGATIONS RE LEGAL ASPECTS

MIGHT BE DESIRABLE, DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION IF EMBASSY COMPARES NOTES IN BONN GROUP PROVIDED FRG PREPARED TO DO SO. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO SOUND OUT BRITISH AND FRENCH FIRST ON THEIR VIEWS RE DESIRABILITY OF DISCUSSION IN BONN GROUP. WHILE THIS IS APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON WHAT SOVIETS MAY HAVE IN MIND IN INVOKING FOUR POWER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT WE SEE ANY BASIS FOR USSR'S LEGAL ASSERTIONS.

4. PRELIMINARY RESEARCH IN L/EUR HAS REVEALED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON LEGAL ASPECTS BEYOND EMBASSY OBSERVATIONS REFTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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